## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

Claims 20-33 have been added.

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in order to provide a more adequate basis for protecting the current invention.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by 4 from 2 to 6 (3 previously paid for) and increases the total number of claims by 14 from 19 to 33 (20 previously paid for), but does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, a Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form authorizing the amount of \$492.00 to be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260 is enclosed herewith in duplicate. However, if the Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form is missing, insufficient, or otherwise inadequate, or if a fee, other than the issue fee, is required during the pendency of this application, please charge such fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted

Dale B. Nixon

Registration No. 28,454. Attorney for Applicants

TNT/DBN/llb:jkk:bar

SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP

717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400

Dallas, Texas 75201 Direct: (214) 981-3

Direct: (214) 981-3309 Main: (214) 981-3300

Facsimile: (214) 981-3400

June 8, 2004